

Message Text

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67

ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /079 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN

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S/PRS - MR. FUNSETH (INFO)

H - MISS FOLGER (INFO)

EUR/P - MR. JERABEK

IO/P - MR. BLACHLY

NEA/ARN - MR. BULLEN

AF/P - MRS. RUSSELL

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

UNCLASSIFIED

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USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY SANAA

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS STATE 132700

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING JUNE 6, 1975:

QUOTE:

Q. THERE WERE A NUMBER OF QUESTIONS YESTERDAY ABOUT THE
SUEZ CANAL AND ISRAELI CARGO. DO YOU HAVE ANY ANSWERS
TODAY?

A. WE HAVE DECLINED TO DISCUSS IN PUBLIC THE DETAILS OF
THE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT. AND THE REASON WE HAVE
DONE THIS IS, AS I STATED YESTERDAY: OUR CONCERN OVER OUR
ROLE AS A CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARY BETWEEN THE TWO PAR-
TIES.

I SAID YESTERDAY THAT WE WERE TRYING TO BE HELPFUL. NOW,
AT A TIME WHEN WE ARE ONCE MORE ENGAGING IN NEGOTIATIONS
WITH THE PARTIES, WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD PUB-

LICLY PUT OUT WHAT EITHER PARTY HAS COMMUNICATED TO US
IN CONFIDENCE. WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IMPROPER FOR US
AS A CONFIDENTIAL INTERMEDIARY TO DIVULGE PUBLICLY THE
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CONFIDENTIAL EXCHANGES WE HAVE HAD WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTS.

AS I STATED YESTERDAY, AND AS WE HAVE PUBLICLY STATED IN
THE PAST, WE KNOW WHAT COMMITMENTS WERE MADE AND WE HAVE
INFORMED THE PROPER COMMITTEES OF THE CONGRESS OF ALL
THE RELEVANT DOCUMENTS.

Q. THE NEW, OR THE DESIGNATED, AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL -- MR.
TOON -- TWO DAYS AGO, BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS
COMMITTEE, ACKNOWLEDGED THAT ONE PART OF THE DISENGAGEMENT
AGREEMENT INVOLVED THE MOVEMENT OF CARGO THROUGH THE
SUEZ CANAL. ARE YOU WILLING TO GO THAT FAR IN THIS
FORUM TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT?

A. I AM AWARE OF WHAT AMBASSADOR TOON SAID, BUT I AM NOT GOING TO HAVE ANY FURTHER COMMENT ON HIS REMARKS.

Q. WAS HIS REMARK ACCURATE?

A. I AM JUST NOT GOING TO COMMENT ON HIS TESTIMONY.

Q. DO YOU REGARD AS HELPFUL ISRAEL'S REPEATED CLAIM OVER THE PAST COUPLE DAYS THAT IT HAS A WRITTEN COMMITMENT FROM THE UNITED STATES ABOUT CARGOES THROUGH THE SUEZ CANAL?

A. I HAVE NOTICED THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS HAVE SAID THAT THEY ARE ENCOURAGED BY RECENT DEVELOPMENTS OF CONTINUED MOVEMENT TOWARD PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST.

Q. MY QUESTION WAS: DO YOU REGARD ISRAEL'S ASSERTION OVER THE PAST COUPLE OF DAYS THAT IT HAS A WRITTEN COMMITMENT AS BEING HELPFUL, IN VIEW OF YOUR STRESSING THE NEED FOR CONFIDENTIALITY?

A. I WAS ASKED THAT SAME QUESTION YESTERDAY; AND I THINK WHAT I SAID IS, I WOULD LEAVE TO ISRAEL WHAT ISRAEL WANTS TO SAY AND TO EGYPT WHAT EGYPT WANTS TO SAY, BUT THIS IS WHAT WE ARE PREPARED TO SAY.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY QUARREL WITH THE STATEMENTS MADE BY THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OVER THE PAST YEAR THAT SUCH A UNCLASSIFIED

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COMMITMENT EXISTED IN THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WROTE MRS. MEIR, THEN THE PRIME MINISTER, THAT HE HAD BEEN TOLD BY

SADAT ISRAELI CARGO COULD USE THE CANAL?

A. AS I'VE JUST SAID, I AM NOT GOING TO SPEAK FOR OTHER PARTIES. WE ARE ONLY GOING TO SPEAK FOR OURSELVES IN THIS NEGOTIATION.

Q. HAVE WE WARNED ISRAEL OR ADVISED THEM THAT TOO STRIDENT AN INSISTENCE ON THE PASSAGE OF CARGOES MIGHT JEOPARDIZE THE UNDERSTANDINGS?

A. I AM NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH EXCHANGE.

Q. HAS THERE BEEN ANY MOVEMENT OF THAT LIBYAN SHIP CARRYING ISRAELI CARGO?

Q. LIBERIAN.

A. PRESS REPORTS OF A SHIP THAT STIMULATED OR PROMPTED OR HOWEVER YOU MIGHT WANT TO DESCRIBE IT OUR DISCUSSION YESTERDAY I NOTICED AFTER THE BRIEFING THE SHIP HAD DIS-

APPEARED ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. HOWEVER, NO ONE
CALLED THAT PARTICULAR PRESS REPORT TO MY ATTENTION
DURING THE BRIEFING YESTERDAY. END QUOTE. KISSINGER

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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